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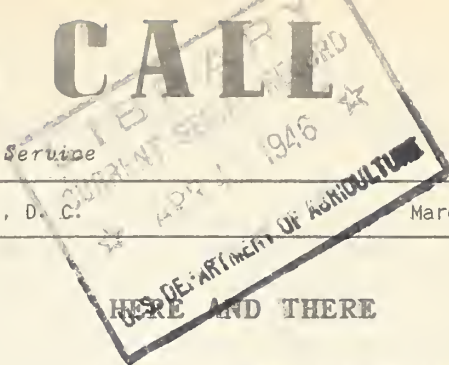
REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

Vol. IV, Nos. 10 & 11

New Address: Washington 25, D. C.

March 1, 1946



BLOSSOMS IN THE DUST

Cpl. Joseph Petitio, who has never written the ROLL CALL before, waits until now to say "hello", writing from the war-shattered city of Manila. Like Phil Widman, Joe has served in both the ETO and the Pacific Theatre.

"We're just about settled down here", he informs us about the occupation force. "Putting up tents, mess hall, electrical system and recreation facilities just about takes all of our time and then some... We just went through the rainy season and now it is really hot and dusty here."

"Manila needs fixing up very badly after the bombing it took. Transportation is slow. The roads are bumpy, and you can never see the vehicle in front for all the dust... The one bright spot is the golf course, just twenty yards from our area. They really made the Jap POW's work on it. The best part about it is that even we e.m.'s can use it, too."

DERRY RECEIVES LEGION OF MERIT

Lt. Col. Jack Derry decoded the War Department message advising that the atom bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima and thus became the first person in America to know it. This was the final chapter of the bomb project with which he had literally lived and slept for three years.

As a follow up of the project, he also assisted Gen. Leslie R. Groves in directing the missions into Japan to study the bomb's effects on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In consequence of his work on this, as well as on the bomb project itself, Jack was elevated to a lieutenant colonelcy last September after having received his majority only a few months before.

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Cpl. Joseph Petitio, APO 75 (Manila); Rinaça, SK(D) 2/c, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Sgt. Clemont Hawkins, APO 713, Nagaya, Japan; Lt. Col. E. J. Withers, APO 513, Germany; A. F. Burgess, Jr., Pentagon Building; Lt. William D. Scoates, Chicago, Ill.; T/Sgt. Ray Rex, Ft. Myer, Va.

GOING UP

Maj. Henry Ledbetter, Fred M. Rinaça, SK (D) 2/c; Cpl. Joseph Petitio; M/Sgt. John L. Overmann; T/5 Bernard Kirk; T/Sgt. Ray Rex; Maj. Joe Thurston, Lt. Col. Jack Derry; Lt. Col. Joseph P. Smith, Lt. Col. Don Basler, Lt. Col. Roy Zook, and Lt. Comdr. Bruce Bingham.

HE WENT TO THE DOGS

After Wm. Callaway entered the Army, he asked for assignment to the K-9 Corps because his hobby had been bird hunting and he wanted to learn something about training dogs. His wish was granted and soon he was transferred from Camp Lee to Ft. Robinson which is one of six or seven places where the Army trained dogs for war.

In basic at Camp Lee he had Al O'Donhell, George Bradbury, and Vernon McCoy as buddies, but when he "went to the dogs" at Ft. Robinson he had only McCoy. In addition to the dogs there were also plenty of horses, Ft. Robinson being a remount station, so that the whole thing seemed like dude ranch life and not at all like the customary Army camp.

Dog records were kept as complete as were those on a man in the Army. Vaccination reports (for rabies, distemper, etc.); shipping orders, morning report (including such features as sick bay and AWOL); and other records

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DERRY RECEIVES LEGION OF MERIT

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A further honor was accorded him when in October he was awarded the Legion of Merit for distinguished service. The citation, presented by Maj. Gen. T. M. Robins, U.S. Army Engineers, read: "Major John A. Derry, Corps of Engineers, performed outstanding services in connection with the Atomic Bomb program from Dec. 1942 to August 1945. Charged with the duty of coordinating construction and expediting critical materials and equipment for a major component of the Manhattan Engineer District Project, he carried out his vital mission in an exemplary manner despite innumerable handicaps and the pressure of most urgent schedules. Later he was responsible for Washington liaison matters involving the ordnance and design phases of the Atomic Bomb, a duty in which he displayed sound judgment, immense capacity for work, and outstanding devotion to duty. Major Derry's laudable performance in a Top Secret assignment was of significant assistance to the war effort and reflects great credit upon himself and upon the military service."

WOUNDED BY A SNIPER'S BULLET

Lost for 2-1/2 years from ROLL CALL records, during which time he neither received his copies nor communicated with the REA home base, Lt. Fred Ripley is now back at work in A&L. He never remained long in one place and was assigned to so many different jobs that keeping track of him was almost impossible.

From infantry to artillery, to tank destroyer, next personnel officer for a year, then back to infantry, and special instructor for the Medical Corps plus action aplenty on the firing line furnished plenty of diversified activity for Ripley. His personnel service consisted of qualifying units for overseas service, working with the Inspector General's office although he was always a part of the Army Ground Forces.

While on Tank Destroyer work he met Giles Penstone, only REA'er he encountered while in service. And he saw him only once, for Giles later transferred to law work. Ripley's most

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A FOOT SOLDIER SLUGS IT OUT

Always a foot soldier, all through his more than four years of service, Capt. John Eddy has lately tramped back to REA after seeing enough action to fill several volumes. For the Infantry still does most of the fighting, even in modern warfare.

Starting out at Indiantown Gap, he spent a year at Camp Livingston. At Camp Carabelle, Florida, he learned the fine art of jungle warfare where primary emphasis was laid on amphibious landings. As it turned out, the jungle he never saw, but the amphibious landing knowledge came in handy on the French coast.

Winding up his training at Camp Pickett, he sailed in convoy in Sept. '43 from Boston. But a day and a half out sabotage struck the ship, stripping all teeth from the main drive gear which left the two battalions aboard bobbing around alone in the Atlantic until tugs from Boston came. A convoy doesn't wait for a disabled ship not in actual distress.

Back in Boston, they went to Halifax, shipping out from there on the venerable Aquatania on which some of his older superior officers had sailed in the other World War. Landing in Scotland, Eddy's bunch went by train to South Wales where the officers were quartered in a real castle, St. Donats, a relic of the knight errant age. It has been bought by W. R. Hearst who modernized it for his friends of the cinema world, but the moat and drawbridge over which Eddy often crossed retained all the flavor of that age of chivalry.

Stationed seven months in Wales, his division went into action at St. Lo from which time on it was mixed up with the business of chasing the Hun across Europe. It was the only American division to march with the French in their great Paris liberation.

Late in November it was pulled out to take a much needed rest in Luxembourg. But the Germans disturbed this rest by unexpectedly breaking through. Billeted at Ettlebruck, Capt. Eddy with a couple of buddies fled in the night and, without climbing trees or hid-

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A FOOT SOLDIER SLUGS IT OUT

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ing under leaves, managed to escape through the enemy lines by which they were completely surrounded.

After the Bulge, he was assigned to the French First Army to help clean out the Vosges Mountains, last German pocket of resistance on French soil. Then back to the Aachen region, where he had already seen some of the bitterest fighting on the continent, and fought as far as Kassel (thirty miles within Germany) when his division was released for occupational duty in the area west of the Rhine, in the heart of the German vineyard district.

He was surprised to be assigned as a crop specialist on the AMG at Coblenz. The Supreme Command was concerned about getting farmers lined up with fertilizers and seeds, so had instructed a roundup of all Army personnel with agriculture connections. Eddy was bagged on his listing as "Agriculture Engineer", and the next few weeks found him looking after seed potato matters.

WOUNDED BY A SNIPER'S BULLET

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unusual assignment came when he taught close combat fighting to medics bound for the Pacific Theatre. They were permitted to carry arms in contrast to those in the ETO because the Germans were supposed to be fighting under Geneva rules while the Japs did not. He instructed the medics in judo. His fighting days came to an abrupt end on April 6 in '45 when a German sniper in the Ruhr pocket near Hanover got in a good shot at him after which life for Ripley was one hospital after another, beginning at Rheims, France, then O'Halloran General in New York, Glennon in Okmulgee, and ending in the Mitchell Convalescent in California from which he was finally retired last December 19th.

It was during the California chapter of his hospital life that he lived in a house powered with electricity by an REA co-op, Mountain Empire Electric Cooperative. But now he's back working in REA and that is even better than being served by it.

STRIKE UP THE RAND

At this writing over half of our REA'ers in service have been discharged and most of them back to work. The following are those who have returned to REA: FINANCE: Kenneth F. Barry, George T. Bradbury, Harvey M. Buchanan, Paul A. Carroll, Robert L. Creager, Orton L. Evans, John J. Fitzgerald, Ray L. Garcia, Russell Wade, Arnold W. Hoag, James G. Houk, Robert F. Howell, Darrel L. Johnson, Joseph Kubek, Clifford A. Kurth, Charles S. Lewis, Bernard Loving, John R. McArthur, Vernon McCoy, Charles S. Miller, William F. Naughton, Albert B. O'Donnell, Wilmer F. Orndoff, Elmer L. Eriksson, Arthur L. Stewartson, John W. Scott, John S. Tarr, and Irene d'Arche; DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: Richard Allen, Glenn Randall, Hobart Rowe, Robert Gallup, Joseph Kaminski, Donald Schottler, Will A. Lewis, Frank Carlson, Robert Weber, Hoburg Lee, Erwin Graham, Theodore Baroody, Roy Zook, Lorne Holdaway, Gustave Anderson, Randall Leon, Donald Gindele, George Ditlow, Donald Lowery, John Wright, Merle Smedburg, William Melchiorson, Edgar Parsons, Nat Levinson, Robert Thomson, William Coleman, James Neil Thompson, Harry R. Smith, Elmer A. Loetterle, and Duncan A. Wicker; PERSONNEL: Clyde Johnson, Henry Carroll Starns, and George Finley; ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (formerly Management Division): Dan Hammond, Lou Knowles, Harry D. Cromer, C. L. Kelchner, John B. Kelly, Wm. Schifter, George Walker, Francis Hanrahan, Thomas Martin, Thomas Ronan, William Bryant, Raymond Klink, J.M. McCutchen, Frank McEntee, Emanuel Smith, John Samokar, Edward Hudson, and Norma Lewis; OFFICE OF SOLICITOR: William Anderson, Henry Baue, Frank Nelson, Henry Freedman, Charles Parrott, Ernest Rushmer, Arnold Winokur, Sam Saltman, Sanford Stoddard, Clarence Strange, Bill Wise, Giles Penstone, Al Gerber, Phil Widman, and Al Kamenstein from serving abroad with the American Red Cross; APPLICATIONS AND LOANS: Kenneth Hardy, Fred McVey, Beryl Longenecker, Joel Babb, Landy Altman, Lynn Ludlow, William Riley, Earl Mart, Charles Kimzey, John Eddy, T. Coleman Farrell, Richard Lunsford, Russell Rehm, Edward Wilson, John Tvelia, Russell Heston, Fred Ripley, Harry McCollum, and William Callaway; OPERATIONS: Donald Grant, Henry Bazak, George McPhee, Harold Park, Hamilton Treadway, Anna Maxine Willett, Frank

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STRIKE UP THE BAND

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Peebles, Jos. P. Smith, Henry Holmes, Clarence Bush, David Askegaard, Arthur Viereg, Larry Regan, Percy W. Smith, George Ball, Tom Dunphy, J. T. McNeill, Robert MacCinchie, Eugene Mahning, Milton Pilcher, and Hardin Shattuck; TECHNICAL STANDARDS: Zelda Krinowitz, Henry S. Williams, J. S. Strojny, Don Basler, Harold W. Kelley, N. Whitney Matthews, Gordon Messmer, Warner T. Smith, James R. Oberholtzer, Stanley Vest, Reginald Vassar, Bruce Watkins, Bruce Bingham, Knoland Plucknett, John F. Atkinson, Joseph O'Brien, Kenneth Poarch, and Joe Thurston; ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE: John Russell.

The list gives a picture of the welcoming going on within REA's household these days. And the welcome mat is still outside at the front door for all the rest of you, wherever you are. whenever you, too, come back to REA.

HE WENT TO THE DOGS

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were kept for each dog. Fed only once a day (at night), their rations were made up mostly of horse meat. The feeding hour was the noisiest time of day with 1,700 dogs yelping for mess.

There was every kind of breed in existence in training, from the Welsh corgi to Great Danes. Their training included a wide range of specialized instruction including scouting, message carrying, trailing POW's and sentry duty for which more dogs were used than for any other purpose. The training courses required from six weeks to six months. Each dog was required to pass a series of tests covering all phases of the training.

After several weeks of helping train the K-9 Corps, Callaway took over office duties in charge of canine records at the Dog Reception and Training Center. In time he was sent back to Camp Lee for officer's training and in October 1944, after being commissioned, was sent to Washington where he spent the last days of his Army life in the Office of the Quartermaster General handling stock control activities of the Quartermaster Corps, totally apart from the dogs of war.

COLUMN WRITE

Sgt. CLEMORT HAWKINS with a QM Truck Company writes, "I am now in Nagaya, Japan, which was bombed a lot but a few buildings are still standing, including the railroad station which is very modern." He concludes his letter by querying, "Is it true what they say about moving back to Washington?" (Ed. Note: Quite true, Clem. In fact we are already here.)

FRED RINAOA, SK(D) 2/c, is now at the Brooklyn, N. Y., receiving station but says he expects to be back in March.

Christmas cards were received from a number of the servicemen, some of whom have already returned. One from Lt. Col. E. J. Withers is a unique combination of commemorating Christmas and a chamber of commerce slant featuring the Oise section of France by an illuminated picture map.

Another unusual Christmas card came from Lt. Col. Cecil R. Hill, also stationed in Europe. It was an etching of a bombed Heidelberg cathedral (Lutheran) accompanied by a photograph of himself and another officer and their dog.

HERMAN KUCHLER is working as classification specialist in the civilian personnel branch of our Occupational Force. He is currently engaged, as he puts it, in "civilizing the civilian set-up", classifying jobs for civilians to go into. He was grabbed for this job because of his past experience here in REA. Herman feels right in his element and is enjoying the work even though the work load is so heavy they work day and night.

LT. JERRY DENTON writes that he's on his way home, there being nothing else half so important for him to tell us.

Mr. M. M. Samuels has received a lot of souvenirs from World War II, but undoubtedly Lt. (j.g.) GEO. SCHERRER comes up with a topper. He sent a Jap rib (whether rubbed with brandy or not isn't known) with a tag on it saying on one side, "Found in Warner Smith's foxhole on Okinawa" and on the other, "This Jap took quite a ribbing".

So far as we know, TOM RONAN, who was a T/Sgt. before discharge, is the only one of our more than 350 REA'ers in service who brings back a bride from across the sea. She was Miss Esther Tresidder and he met her in Cornwall at a Service Club. Mrs. Ronan is soon to arrive in this country and Tom is sure on his toes anxiously awaiting the great moment. Will she pine for "auld Cornwall"? "No!" says Tom. "I intend to take care of that matter."
